Unit 1: Foundations of Civics and Government

Essential Questions:

* What are the varying beliefs about the origins and purpose of government?
* What are the historical origins of American government and which philosophers had the greatest influences on our founding fathers?
* What political beliefs are fundamental to the identity of the American citizen and American political culture?
* How has the idea of citizenship evolved throughout American history?

Textbook: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 2-1

Know these key terms and their significance:

Civics:

Government:

Politics:

Citizenship:

Equality:

Justice:

Liberty:

State of nature:

Social contract:

Natural rights:

Nation/state:

Direct democracy:

Representative democracy/republic:

Autocracy (monarchy, dictatorship):

Theocracy:

Anarchy:

Demographics:

Immigrants:

Native-born:

Naturalization:

Census:

Be able to explain:

-Rights and responsibilities of citizenship/”civic virtue”

-Democratic values and principles (compared to other forms of government) and the themes of liberty, justice, and equality

-Ways of acquiring US citizenship

-Purposes of government and the philosophies of Locke, Hobbes, and Rousseau

-Influences of Greece and Rome on American democracy